

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF REP. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA OF
AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my good friend and our former colleague from American Samoa, Congressman Eni Faleomavaega, who passed away on February 22, 2017. Throughout his 26 years here in the House of Representatives, Eni was a tireless champion for the people of American Samoa, an advocate for the U.S. territories, and leader on issues affecting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. He was also a leader on the House Foreign Affairs Committee on issues important to the Asia-Pacific region. More importantly, he got leaders in Congress and in administration after administration to focus on the importance of the Pacific Islands. We are often overlooked in grand Asia strategy but he got policymakers to understand our importance to the world community.

I am proud to have worked with Eni on a number of issues that impact the Asia-Pacific region and the 4.5 million Americans living in the territories. For much of my time here in Congress, Eni was the longest serving representative from a U.S. territory, so he was the Dean of what we refer to as our Territorial Caucus. I leaned on his advice and appreciated his insightful perspectives that were grounded in not only his almost three decades as a Member of Congress, but also his work in public service as American Samoa's Lieutenant Governor and Deputy Attorney General, as a staffer here on Capitol Hill, and service in the U.S. Army. He, like many Members in this body, fought hard to secure much needed federal funding for American Samoa. Eni had a broad vision but never forgot his constituents. He never forgot the people that gave him the privilege to serve in this esteemed body. His depth of knowledge and compassion for the less fortunate were evident to everyone he met, and I will look back fondly on the work that we did together in Congress.

Eni's passing is a great loss for the people of American Samoa and all Americans, and we are all better for having known him. I extend my sincere condolences to his family, loved ones, and the people of American Samoa, and I join them in celebrating his memory. I thank my colleague from American Samoa, Congresswoman RADEWAGEN for organizing this Special Order, so that this body can appropriately honor and pay tribute to Congressman Faleomavaega for his years of dedicated service to his constituents and to our nation. He is deeply missed, but he will forever be remembered by all who he served.

ENI FA'AUA'A HUNKIN
FALEOMAVAEGA, JR.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing

the extraordinary life of Eni Fa'a'ua'a Hunkin Faleomavaega, Jr., who passed away last month at the age of 73. Eni Faleomavaega was not only my colleague, he was my friend. Eni was the senior delegate and, therefore, the dean of the delegates. We became friends from the time I was elected in 1990. Eni was as affable as he was serious and dedicated to his constituents in American Samoa. He was the first person of Asian-Pacific descent to chair the House Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, later serving as ranking member.

Eni was fully prepared for his leadership roles in the Congress. He served his country for three years during the Vietnam War. Eni put his education at Brigham Young University and the University of Houston Law Center to a lifetime of public service. He served the people of American Samoa in critical positions. Eni Faleomavaega was deputy attorney general and, later, lieutenant governor of American Samoa. Eni was the administrative assistant to American Samoa Delegate A.U. Fuimaono before he was elected to that position himself in 1988.

Even though the District of Columbia pays federal taxes (highest per capita in the U.S.), the delegates have much in common and always worked together. When I discovered that the D.C. flag was not carried by D.C. troops as state troops do, further investigation showed that the troops of the territories also did not carry their flags. Yet, the territories and the District have served their country in notably-disproportionate numbers. All of us signed a letter to House and Senate Armed Services committees. Working together, we got this failure to acknowledge all our troops corrected by the Congress.

I was particularly appreciative of Eni's initiatives. For example, he introduced the bill to cancel the trademark using the disparaging word "Redskins," the name of the District of Columbia's football team. That challenge has been vindicated, but is now on appeal.

Delegates have always supported one another on issues unique to their districts. I appreciate that all the Democratic delegates are original cosponsors of my bill to make the District of Columbia the 51st state. In the same way, we supported Eni's work against nuclear testing in the South Pacific. Eni led in the Congress on this critical issue, even boycotting then-French president Jacques Chirac's address before a joint session of Congress. Only days before that speech, France was conducting a series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific, despite protests.

Eni led the Congress on issues important to American Samoa and to our country. He set a high standard for representation. Eni Faleomavaega was kind and generous, and he was intelligent, able, dedicated, and hard-working. I miss my friend. So does the Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEM-
ORY OF REPRESENTATIVE ENI
FALEOMAVAEGA

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of a true statesman, Congressman Eni Faleomavaega.

I'm Congressman PAUL GOSAR and I represent Arizona's Fourth Congressional District.

I am also Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, and Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

I would like to start by thanking Congresswoman AMATA for her great leadership in the House of Representatives and for organizing this bipartisan special order today to pay tribute to our colleague Eni.

On February 22, 2017, a Member of the House who served the Congress and represented the people of American Samoa for 26 years, passed away out West while at his home in Utah.

Eni was a patriot who honorably served this great nation in uniform in the U.S. Army. Unfortunately, he was exposed to Agent Orange during one of his tours, something that negatively impacted his health for the rest of his life.

Eni did not let this incident hold him back though and went on to serve our great country for nearly three decades as the Delegate for American Samoa. He also served the territory as its Lieutenant Governor.

I got to know Eni through our work together on the House Committee on Natural Resources. Eni was a passionate and effective member on issues impacting the Pacific.

Eni was a devoted husband and father of five children. Eni and his wife were active members of their church.

Family, friends and colleagues were saddened to learn of his passing last month. This demonstrates just how much he will be missed. I am confident there will be a large turnout next Saturday the 25th at his memorial service and subsequent reception that follows to celebrate his life.

Again, I would like to thank Congresswoman AMATA for organizing this most worthy tribute to our colleague Eni. Eni left big shoes to fill, but Congresswoman AMATA has stepped up, continued the excellent representation the people of American Samoa have come to expect, and become an effective leader that is respected throughout the country.

I know Eni would be proud of the Congresswoman and the great work she has done for American Samoa.

ENI FALEOMAVAEGA

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of serving on the Foreign Affairs Committee with Congressman Eni Faleomavaega for 16 years. We got to know each other well in 2001, when President Bush nominated the two of us to be the bipartisan Congressional Delegates to the United Nations, and we would travel to New York together to meet with our Ambassador and his diplomatic team.

During Eni's last term in Congress, I chaired the Asia Pacific Subcommittee. Eni was the subcommittee's Ranking Member. I can tell you that during that period, we disagreed from time to time on policy matters, but never were we disagreeable. Eni was the consummate